



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
Promoting Improvement*

**Providing Inspection Services for  
Department of Education  
Department for Employment and Learning  
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Follow-up Inspection**

**St Patrick's College  
Belfast**

**December 2012**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE STANDARD INSPECTION OF ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, BELFAST, BT15 4DZ (123-0026)**

A standard inspection conducted in January 2010, which evaluated the school's provision as satisfactory, highlighted strengths in the school's outstanding ethos, the very good quality of the pastoral care, the teaching, the motivation of the pupils; and, the leadership of the Principal. The inspection identified the need for improvement in teaching and learning, assessment and target-setting, school development planning and the quality of the provision in careers education (CEIAG), history, mathematics and Special Educational Needs.

Two subsequent interim follow-up visits (IFUVs) carried out by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) confirmed that the school was making progress in addressing the key issues for improvement identified in the original inspection report.

A follow-up inspection (FUI) conducted in March 2012 noted good improvements in self-evaluation, assessment and target-setting and in the quality of teaching and learning, in CEIAG, in history and for those pupils who require support with aspects of their learning.

The ETI carried out a third IFUV in August 2012 and a second FUI in December 2012.

The action plans produced by the school in response to the findings of the first FUI are of a very good quality. In her first year, the Principal conducted a systematic and rigorous review of the provision to inform the school development planning process and promote further improvement. The development plan meets the statutory requirements set out by the Department of Education.

Since the FUI in March 2012, the school has continued to access support from the Belfast Education and Library Board's Curriculum Advisory and Support Service. The teachers have continued to employ a wider range of effective teaching and learning strategies and a review of staffing and management structures, designed to increase the pace of improvement in the school, has continued.

The following are the most important improvements since the time of the original inspection in January 2010.

- The quality of provision and the outcomes at GCSE level in mathematics have improved to good.
- the monitoring and evaluation of the provision by senior and middle managers is now very effective and has led to a much increased consistency in outcomes for the pupils, with 13 out of 17 of the subjects showing improvement in examination results, and with a significant increase (by more than half) in the percentage of pupils achieving grades A\*-C in the General Certificate in Secondary Education (GCSE), in any five or more subjects.
- the percentage of pupils achieving grades A\*-C in GCSE, in any five or more subjects, including English and mathematics, has risen to the average for similar schools in 2012.
- the use of data to help identify the needs of individual pupils, modify classroom practice and reduce the variation in the standards which the pupils attain is very effective.

- the quality of the teaching observed continues to improve, with a high proportion of the lessons observed during the FUI evaluated as very good or outstanding.
- the whole-school approach to school improvement, as evidenced in the continuing rise in examination standards, is led strategically and effectively by the Principal.

## CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some areas for continued improvement in relation to standards and achievements which the school has the capacity to address. The ETI will continue to monitor progress.

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